Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of determining a likely geographical location for which a user of a computer desires further information based on submitted criteria comprising the steps of:

the user submitting criteria including a locality name wherein the criteria may be in the form of text;

identifying from the criteria the locality name, including separating the text criteria that is not a locality name from text criteria that is a locality name;

returning, using a processor ~~processing means~~ and in dependence on the locality name, a probability of the locality name being associated with a geographical location; and

providing information to the user based upon the returned probability, wherein the provided information comprises search results that are refined in a manner corresponding to the returned probability so that the user may determine from the refined search results a geographical location.

2. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the returned probability indicates the probability of the locality name being associated with each of a plurality of geographic locations.

3. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the criteria includes a plurality of locality names and the method comprises the steps of:

identifying each of the locality names and returning, in dependence on each locality name, a probability that each of the locality names is associated with a geographical location; and

combining the returned probabilities to return a composite probability that indicates the probability of the plurality of location names being associated with a geographical location.

4. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 3, wherein the returned composite probability indicates the probability of each of the locality names being associated with each of a plurality of geographic locations.

5. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 3, wherein the returned composite probability is derived from a combination of each of the probabilities returned for each of the locality names.

6. (original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein a set of probabilities are provided between a plurality of locality names and a plurality of geographic locations, there being a probability linking a locality name to one or more of the geographic locations.

7. (original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the computer of the user is part of a network and has a network address, the network address being mapped to a geographical location, the method comprising the further step of weighting a returned probability in dependence on the mapped geographical location indicated by the network address.

8. (original) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the network is the Internet and the network address is the IP address of the computer.

9. (original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the computer is one of the group consisting of: a desktop PC, a portable PC, a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), a mobile telephone and a mobile communication device.

10. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, comprising the further step of making a determination as to the geographic location being sought by the user in response to the returned probability.

11. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the returning step includes selecting the returned probability from probabilities stored in a look-up table that associates locality names ~~and~~ to geographic locations.

12. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the probability is returned as a probability vector.

13. – 14. (cancelled)

15. (original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the or each returned probability is open to weighting by a genetic algorithm.

16. – 21. (cancelled)